



The Parish of *Banwell* – A community not just a *traffic jam*.

## **Annual Report 2019 – 20**

### **Banwell Parish Council Chairman's Report 2019-20**

During the past year there have been changes of both personnel and procedures in the Parish Council. Councillor Phil Hale resigned, and I would like to put on record our gratitude for all his good work over the years, we will especially miss his expertise in Planning. I am pleased to report that two new members joined, Councillors Karen Bennett and John Wormald.

The year also saw elections in North Somerset Council (NSC) resulting in some major changes of roles and this has seen them reach out to us, as never before, with a flurry of consultations. The move to the YCC, (Youth and Community Centre), gave pause for thought over our work and its organisation, in particular the committee structure. We decided that the Cemetery Committee would better serve the Council as a Working Party while the Youth Club Management Committee considerably increased its remit to become the Youth and Community Centre Committee; looking after both the management of the building and the activities within it.

We have now been in possession of the YCC for just over a year. Taking back control from North Somerset has been a steep learning curve in the sheer number of responsibilities that comes with the ownership of a public building. We have also been engaged with Wessex Water to rewrite our lease to better suit both parties and to allow us to confirm a new lease with the Scouting Association as the new Scout Hut is built. The Youth Club itself is being run by YMCA Dulverton and from a standing start they had increased membership to over 20. The most visible outcomes of this is the creative mural in the T.V. area. Taking over the building revealed how energy inefficient it is and we have initiated an audit with Future Energy Network with the aim of considerably lowering our carbon footprint over the next few years. I would also like to thank Winscombe Parish Council as its contribution to the upkeep of the YCC as North Somerset's Children's Services support their residents as well.

While the West of England Joint Spatial Plan has faltered the money for the Banwell Bypass has been allocated and as far as we are aware NSC is to go ahead with a public consultation and we will engage fully with them to ensure the best possible outcomes for the village. As long as the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic does not interrupt or change this plan then the village will gain its Bypass after nearly 100 years of asking. This will not come without strings as there are also plans for a 1900 home garden village within our parish boundary to the north of the village: tripling our size.

The new development on Wolvershill Road has delivered section 106 monies to the Parish and this has helped us to install new play equipment and seating to the Recreational Ground. The scheme is nearly complete at a



cost of £30,000. We are also looking to increase and update play equipment at Riverside and the consultation we carried out this year will inform those works.

In commemoration and remembrance of those from Banwell that died in World War 1 we were awarded a grant from the National Lottery 'A wards for All' to plant 18 memorial trees around the village. The tree planting ceremony in November 2019 was a great success and all trees have been planted.

Finally, I come to our preparations for the Covid-19 pandemic. At the last meeting where

we met in person, we put in place measures to help the community get through the lockdown. Most notably we asked the Clerk to contact Love Banwell so that efforts across the village were co-ordinated. Within a couple of days, a network of co-ordinators & volunteers was in place to help vulnerable people across the parish.

Information was put through every door and posted on our website. I would like to thank all the volunteers for their efforts and in particular our Clerk Liz Shayler for the speed with which these arrangements were put in place.

Thank you must go to my fellow councillors, some of who are co-ordinators or volunteers for the emergency plan but who give up their time to go to meetings, training courses, go on site visits, do inspections and do lots of other little jobs that aren't noticed or remarked upon.

Thank you also to John our village orderly, who often goes above and beyond the call of duty, for keeping an eye on things and ensuring the village is a tidy and attractive place to be. And also to Martin & Joyce Hemmings and their volunteers who work hard on the memorial garden. It continues to look lovely and we would like to thank them for all their hard work.

Paul Blatchford, Chairman.

# Staying Informed

As a Parish Council we are always looking to ensure our parishioners are kept up to date with the latest decisions by the council and are aware of the wider issues impacting those who reside and work within our Parish. Our main communication is through:

## Website

[www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk)

A new edition to this is the Community Events Calendar which allows residents to check what other events are happening in the village if you would like to organise one of your own. If you would like to notify us of an event, please contact Lisa Stannard [lisa.stannard@newcreationchurches.org.uk](mailto:lisa.stannard@newcreationchurches.org.uk) or the Clerk. The website also allows the Council freedom to create community pages. So, if you have a Community group that currently has no website and are interested in having a page please contact the Clerk on 820442 or email on [clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Facebook and Twitter

[www.facebook.com/banwellparishcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/banwellparishcouncil)

[www.twitter.com/banwellpc](http://www.twitter.com/banwellpc)

The Parish Council Facebook and Twitter pages provide the Parish Council with a much wider visibility in the community so residents of all ages will be able to keep up to date and in touch with news from the Parish Council.

## Parish Noticeboards

General information and Parish Council Meeting agendas are also displayed on the parish noticeboards at the entrance to West Street carpark and the Recreation Ground.



# Your Parish Council

## Councillors

Paul Blatchford (Chairman)  
Paul Harding (Vice – Chairman)  
Paul Adams  
Phil Baird  
Karen Bennett  
Stephen Davies  
Nick Manley  
Maggie McCarthy  
Dawn Parry  
John Wormald

## Clerk

Liz Shayler

## Contact

Banwell Parish Office  
Banwell Youth and Community Centre  
West Street  
Banwell  
North Somerset  
BS29 6BD

Tel: 01934 820442

Email: [clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Parish Office

The Parish Office is located at the Youth & Community Centre (at the bottom of West Street Carpark adjacent to the Scout Hut) and is open to parishioners on **Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am until 12 noon** – no appointment needed. The Clerk is more than happy to see you by prior arrangement if this is not convenient. Call (01934) 820442 or email [clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk)



## Parish Councillor Vacancies

Have you ever thought about giving something back to your community by becoming a Parish Councillor? The Parish Council aims to make a difference to the area we live in and can be a rewarding experience by improving our local environment. We currently have two vacancies on the Council and would welcome applications from anyone in the village with an interest in getting involved. If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Parish Councillor, please ring the Clerk on **820442** for an informal chat or email [clerk@banwellparishcouncillors.org.uk](mailto:clerk@banwellparishcouncillors.org.uk)

## Recreation Ground additional play equipment

North Somerset Council gave Banwell Parish Council a Section 106 developer contribution of £19,000 from the Taylors Field Development (currently known as Bilbie Grange). Further details of the 106 monies for the village are on page 6.

Based on the public consultation responses from April 2019 this money was used to install a table tennis table, new swing seat, climber, see-saw, zipline and more picnic benches. The final installation of the zipline will not be completed until after the Recreation Ground has reopened.

A quick reminder that Banwell Recreation Ground is covered by a **Public Space Protection Order** which means dogs are prohibited. If caught owners can face a fine of up to £1000. We have some beautiful walks around the Parish so please take advantage of these instead.



## Riverside

Thank you to all those who responded to the consultation for Riverside Play Area. Given the responses the Parish Council have decided to install a multiplay unit and several more picnic benches. We are currently applying for grant to help pay for this but hope that we will be able to have something installed by the Summer.

# Banwell Children's Centre / Youth and Community Centre

North Somerset decided to withdraw from Banwell, Sandford and Winscombe Children Centre located at the bottom of West Street Carpark adjacent to the Scout Hut. The Parish Council did not want to lose Children's Services entirely from the village and so at the beginning of April 2019 took over the running of the building as a Youth and Community Centre (YCC). The following activities (before Covid 19 restrictions) currently run from the building;

- Monday: 9:30 - 11am North Somerset Forest School (drop-in session)  
Evening – 5 – 7pm Beavers then alternate weeks Banwell Parish Council or Planning Committee meeting / Explorer Scouts.
- Tuesday: 9:30 – 11:30am North Somerset Childminding Group  
10am – 12 Banwell Parish Council Public Session  
6:30 – 8:30pm Banwell Youth Club
- Wednesday: 9:30am until 12:30 Breast Feeding Support Group  
6 - 7pm Somerset Kickboxing Academy
- Thursday: 9am - 12 Coffee & Chat run by Love Banwell (monthly visits  
from North Somerset Ward Councillors, WERN, the Police and other guest speakers)  
10am - 12 Banwell Parish Council Public Session
- Friday: 6pm – 10pm Cubs & Scouts

The Youth & Community Centre is available for hire outside of these times Monday to Friday £12 an hour Saturday and Sunday £14 an hour please contact the Clerk for more details and a booking form.

## Banwell Youth Club

Banwell Youth Club is open and being run by YMCA Dulverton. The numbers are going from strength to strength and there is an exciting range of activities planned. So, if you are aged between 10 and 18 then come along to the **Youth & Community Centre** (at the bottom of West Street Car Park) on **Tuesday's** between **6:30 and 8:30pm**. (Please note due to Covid 19 restrictions Banwell Youth Club is currently not running.)

## Speed prevention initiatives

The Parish Council is concerned about the speed cars travel through the centre of Banwell. Evidence suggests that most people are not aware that they are speeding due to complacency and familiarity. The Parish Council has therefore two initiatives aimed at reminding drivers of local speed restrictions.

The **Vehicle Activated Speed Sign** purchased by the Parish Council is continuing to be moved around the village. At present we have agreed three agreed sites and the sign is rotated between these locations. The most recent data has been received;

East Street 2965                      Castle Hill 3925                      Knightcott Road 4748

These readings are the average daily amounts that vehicles are travelling over 30mph. These readings are then passed to the Police and North Somerset.



A **Community Speed Watch Team** has been set up. At present we have identified speed watch sites along Knightcott Road and Wolvershill Road and are looking for volunteers to monitor both areas.

If you or anybody you know has an hour a month to spare then please contact the Clerk. The more people we can encourage to participate the better coverage we can have.

## Your Neighbourhood Consultation and engagement

North Somerset's 'Your Neighbourhood' consultation and engagement was launched on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February and runs until the 7<sup>th</sup> May. It brings together a group of consultations about services which you may use regularly.

They have chosen to group these consultations together so that they can understand the bigger picture for your neighbourhood as well as showing how each proposal or strategy works on its own. They need everyone's views to shape what comes next in these services. They are; Libraries, Leisure and sports centres, Street cleansing, Parks and open spaces & Garden waste



## YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Have your say - 5 consultations about council services that affect you

The easiest way to access the consultation is by using the following link: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/yourneighbourhood](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/yourneighbourhood). If you have any questions email [YourNeighbourhood@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:YourNeighbourhood@n-somerset.gov.uk) and one of the team will get back to you.

## Bilbie Grange Section 106 Developers Contribution

It was advertised that £221,000 will be given to the Village. Just for clarification these contributions were agreed by North Somerset with Bellway Homes over three years ago. The only payment coming directly to the Parish Council is £38,000 for the Recreation Ground paid in two phases; the first paid for the equipment installed before Christmas the second when 50% of the houses have been sold. Directly coming into the village is the following;

- £11,000 for Banwell Football Club
- £1,800 for the YMCA Dulverton to organise 3<sup>rd</sup> party providers
- £4,000 for Godding Lane (undertaken by North Somerset)

The rest of the money will be given to North Somerset to be used for the following;

- Children's Services
- Churchill Academy
- Library Services
- Travel Packs

## Grants and Donations

### Environmental Fund

Provided by New Banwell Solar Banwell following the installation of the solar farm near Towerhead will / has helped the following.

- Banwell 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts for energy efficient oven, fridge, dishwasher, crockery and cutlery.
- Banwell Youth & Community Centre to fund more energy efficient lighting.

Further grants and donations from Parish Council funds have also been made to the following;

- Churchill & Langford Community Bus to fund monthly trips to various locations.
- Dial North Somerset
- Banwell Archaeology to purchase four historic blue plaques
- Banwell-Potigny Town Twinning

If you have any suggestions for further projects that the Parish Council can support, please email the Clerk.

## Accounts

